

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8498

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, PINR, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: FEI I-MIN COMMENTS ON PERSONALITIES BOTH RISING AND
FALLING

REF: HONG KONG 8459

SUMMARY. IN A CONVERSATION WHICH WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE
QUESTION OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S RETURN (REFTEL), TA KUNG PAO
PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN SPOKE WARMLY OF THE ABILITY OF VICE PREMIER
YU CHIU-LI AND OTHER MIDDLE-AGED CADRES. HE ALSO INDICATED
SPECIFICALLY THAT VICE PREMIER SUN CHIEN AND NPC STANDING
COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN YAO LIEN-WEI HAD BEEN FOLLOWERS OF THE
"GANG" AND WERE BEING DROPPED FROM THE LEADERSHIP.
END SUMMARY.

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1. IN A JULY 20 CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFFS, TA KUNG PAO'S
FEI I-MIN NOTED THAT THE LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY DIVISIONS
IN THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE FORMED BY THE MEETING OF
THE PARTY CONGRESS AND THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WERE
BEING FORMULATED NOW AND THAT HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE
"SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN" VICE PREMIERS. FEI STATED HE WAS
TOLD THAT TENG HSIAO-PING WOULD HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION. THE LATTER TWO ITEMS FEI IDENTIFIED AS MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS FOR CHINA AND ONES WHERE TENG COULD CONTRIBUTE IMMENSELY.

2. FEI MENTIONED THAT LI HSIEN-NIEN WOULD CONTINUE TO HANDLE FINANCE AND STATED THAT YU CHIU-LI WOULD TAKE ON THE MAJOR NATIONAL PLANNING TASKS AND WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF HEAVY INDUSTRY. HE WAS EXTREMELY CAPABLE ACCORDING TO FEI, AND A MAN WHO WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE LEADERSHIP. WHEN ASKED ABOUT CHI TENG-KUEI AND HIS IMPORTANCE, FEI NOTED THAT CHI HAD "ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITIES" BASED ON HIS STATE COUNCIL SERVICE BUT THAT HE HAD "NO SPECIALTY", SUGGESTING THAT YU WOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT. ALSO IN THE CATEGORY OF IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS FROM THE "MIDDLE-AGED" CATEGORY, IS SCIENCE ACADEMY VICE CHAIRMAN FANG YI. FEI DESCRIBED FANG AND TENG'S COLLEAGUE, HU YAO-PANG, AS THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD MAKE MAJOR INPUTS TO PRC SCIENCE POLICY.

3. RESPONDING TO A COMMENT THAT VICE PREMIER SUN CHIEN HAD NOT BEEN SEEN RECENTLY AND THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR HEAVY INDUSTRY, FEI NOTED THAT SUN HAD BEEN DROPPED AND THAT SHENSI'S YAO LIEN-WEI, AN NPC STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN, HAD ALSO BEEN PURGED FOR ASSOCIATION WITH THE "GANG OF FOUR". FEI REMARKED THAT THERE WERE OTHERS IN THE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP WHO WOULD BE PURGED AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WOULD STILL BE MORE IN THE PROVINCES AS WELL.
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4. HIS COMMENT THAT MANY OF THESE WOULD BE "LOWER-LEVEL" CADRES WAS SOMEWHAT BELIED BY HIS SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF FORMER YUNNAN AND ANHWEI LEADERS CHIA CHI-YUN AND SUNG PEI-CHANG. FEI STATED THAT CHIA HAD FAILED TO FOLLOW POLITBURO ORDERS DIRECTED AGAINST "GANG" FOLLOWERS BUT THAT HIS CASE WAS LESS SERIOUS THAN THE ONE AGAINST SUNG WHO ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE "GANG" FOLLOWERS AND TRIED TO BLOCK POLITBURO ORDERS. FEI REACTED TO A COMMENT ABOUT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS FOR LIAONING BOSS TSENG SHAO-SHAN WITH THE COMMENT, "NO, NO, NOT YET." (FEI'S COMMENTS ON CHIA SEEM SOMEWHAT OUT OF PLACE SINCE CHIA WOULD HAVE HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE TIME TO PROCEED AGAINST "GANG" FOLLOWERS IN YUNNAN, IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT CHIA'S PROBLEM WAS A FAILURE TO RESTRAIN FACTIONALISM AND FALLING PREY TO FACTION DEMANDS WHICH WERE CONTRARY TO CENTER POLICY BEFORE THE "GANG'S" FALL.)

5. FEI CRITICIZED THE LOCAL PRC-CONTROLLED WEN WEI PAO'S COVERAGE OF RECENT CANTON RALLIES TO DENOUNCE "GANG" SUPPORTERS AS CREATING WORRY IN HONG KONG AND ASSERTED THAT THE TA KUNG PAO WOULD NOT PUBLISH THESE TALES. HE STATED THAT THE THREE INDIVIDUALS IN CANTON WHO WERE UNDER ATTACK -- LIU CHUN-YI,

LIU CHI-FA, AND LIANG CHIN-TANG -- WERE ALL INCONSEQUENTIAL
"RED GUARD FACTION LEADERS" WHO CONSPIRED WITH THE "GANG"
BUT WHO WERE POWERLESS.
CROSS

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